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A NEW GUATEMALAN *SPIGELIA*

DOROTHY N. GIBSON

THREE NEW NICARAGUAN EPIDENDRUMS

ALFONSO H. HELLER

SYAGRUS OLERACEA (MART.) BECC. AND CLOSELY RELATED TAXA

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TROPICAL AMERICAN PLANTS, X

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AUGUST 19, 1968

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A NEW GUATEMALAN *SPIGELIA*

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Custodian of the Herbarium
Field Museum of Natural History

THREE NEW NICARAGUAN EPIDENDRUMS

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SYAGRUS OLERACEA (MART.) BECC. AND CLOSELY RELATED TAXA

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Volume 32, No. 1 August 19, 1968 Publication 1052

A New Guatemalan *Spigelia*

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CUSTODIAN OF THE HERBARIUM
FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

During a recent study of the family Loganiaceae for the "Flora of Guatemala," a new species of *Spigelia* was found, which is described below:

Spigelia pygmaea D. Gibson, sp. nov.

Herbae annuae vel perennes usque ad 14 cm. altae (plerumque 8 cm.); foliae diversae ovato-rhombicae et oblongo-ellipticae, obtusae vel acutae; inflorescentia multispicata, spica erecta simplex vel ramosa, multiflora; sepala lanceolata, ciliolata, minute granulosa; corolla subcampanulata, lobi late lanceolati, acuti; capsula bilobata, muriculata.

Plants annual or possibly perennial, the lower portion sometimes creeping and rooting, small, erect, 6–14 cm. tall (average height ca. 8 cm.), the stems short, 1–3 cm. long, tetragonous, the stipules broadly triangular; leaves decussate, entire, tapering to the short, narrowly winged petioles, the blades thin, obtuse, those of one pair ovate-rhombate, the second and larger pair oblong-ovate or oblong-elliptic, obtuse to acute, the smaller pair 1–2 cm. long, 0.8–1.5 cm. broad, the larger pair 2–5 cm. long, 1.5–2.5 cm. broad, deep green above, paler beneath, the nerves prominent, few; inflorescence multispicate, the flowering spikes erect, some arising from near the base, others, especially on older plants, from leaf axils, sometimes branching, 1.5–9 cm. tall (averaging 4–6 cm.), minutely granular-verrucose, many-flowered, the flowers sessile or subsessile, bracteolate; sepals lanceolate, ciliolate, minutely granular especially along the midnerve, ca. 1 mm. long; corolla white, ca. 1.5 mm. long, subcampanulate, smooth within, the lobes broadly lanceolate, acute; stamens included, the very short filaments inserted just below the middle of the tube; ovary subglobose, the style minute, the stigma articulating directly above the apex of the capsule; mature capsule bilobate, muriculate, 1–1.5 mm. long, ca. 2 mm. broad; seeds ridged.

GUATEMALA: In savanna about 7 km. west of village in *zapotal*, on La Gloria Road, Dos Lagunas, Dept. Petén, Oct. 19, 1960, *Contreras 1537* (type LL; frag. F). Two specimens which may be seedlings of the same species, with smaller leaves and only 1–3 spikes in the inflorescence are: savanna, Dolores, Dept. Petén, Oct. 18, 1961, *Contreras 3071*; pine forest, Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, alt. 1000–1200 m., Sept. 2, 1942, *Steyermark 51798*.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 68–31880

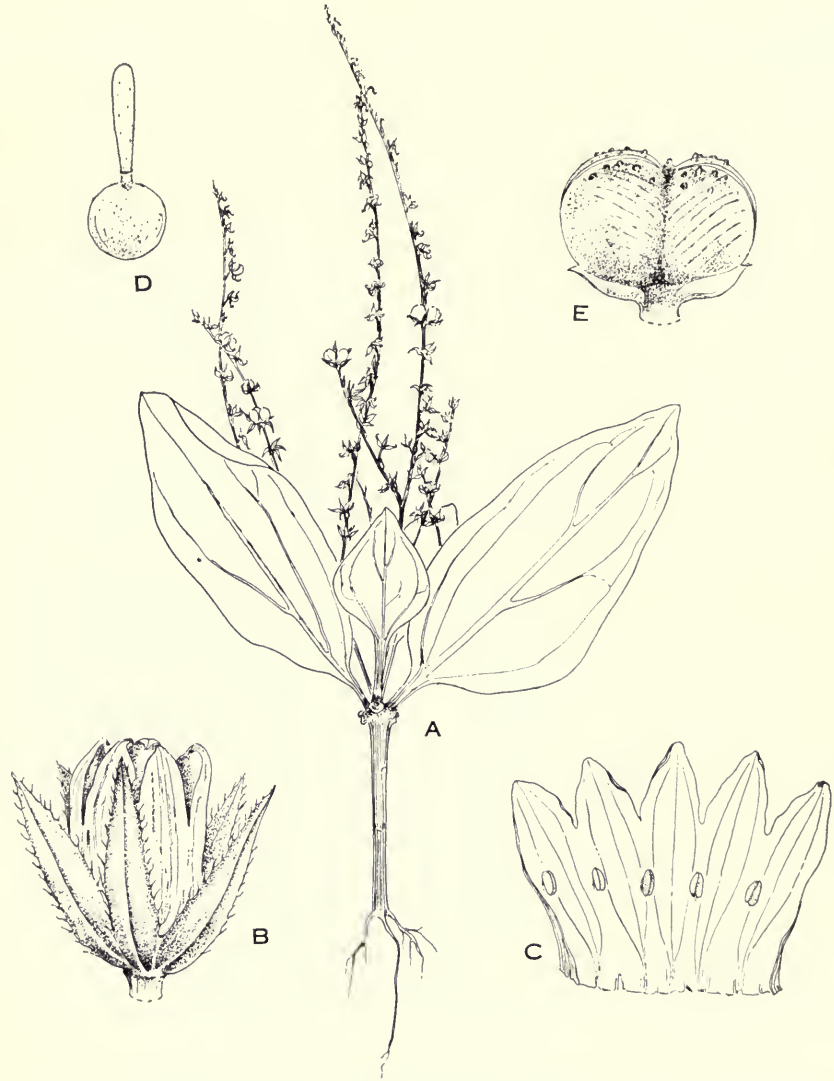

FIG. 1. *Spigelia pygmaea*. A, habit, X 1; B, flower, X 15; C, corolla dissected to show stamens, X 15; D, pistil, X 15; E, capsule showing muriculate apex, X 10. Drawing by Davida Simon.

Although about the same height as *S. polystachya* Klotzsch ex Prog., and with the same minute style segment, *S. pygmaea* may be readily separated by its broad leaves, multispicate inflorescences, and muriculate capsules.

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